

From: [Rowan, Anne](#)
To: [Singer, Joshua](#); [Speizman, Elissa](#)
Cc: [Wolfe, Stephen](#); [Durno, Mark](#); [Harris, Michael](#); [Narsete, Virginia](#); [Karl, Richard](#); [Suero, Maryann](#)
Subject: RE: Blade story on Clyde cancer suit
Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 1:42:59 PM

The first would need the RA's approval so if the reporter is on deadline, let's go with the 2nd alternative.

Anne Rowan, Chief
Public Affairs Section
Office of External Communications
U.S. EPA Region 5, Chicago
rowan.anne@epa.gov
312-353-9391

From: Singer, Joshua
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 1:40 PM
To: Speizman, Elissa; Rowan, Anne
Cc: Wolfe, Stephen; Durno, Mark; Harris, Michael; Narsete, Virginia; Karl, Richard; Suero, Mary Ann
Subject: RE: Blade story on Clyde cancer suit

Anne and Elissa,

Reporter Kristina Horn at the Fremont News-Messenger called asking questions that are similar to the Toledo Blade's questions.

Can/Should we respond by saying: **Non-Responsive**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks.

Josh Singer
U.S. EPA, Region 5
phone: 312-353-5069
singer.joshua@epa.gov

From: Suero, Mary Ann
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 1:18 PM
To: Singer, Joshua; Speizman, Elissa; Rowan, Anne
Cc: Wolfe, Stephen; Durno, Mark; Klevs, Mardi; Master, Edward; Harris, Michael; Narsete, Virginia
Subject: RE: Blade story on Clyde cancer suit
Attorneys claim they have cancer cluster culprit: benzaldehyde
<http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20130515/NEWS01/305150006/Attorneys-claim-they-cancer-cluster-culprit-benzaldehyde>

There's a short (1.27 minute) video at the website too.

By the way, I did a quick review of Whirlpool's TRI emissions as found in EPA's Envirofacts database and benzaldehyde is not listed for the period 1987 – 2011.

maryann

From: Singer, Joshua
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 11:40 AM
To: Suero, Mary Ann; Speizman, Elissa; Rowan, Anne
Cc: Wolfe, Stephen; Durno, Mark; Klevs, Mardi; Master, Edward; Harris, Michael; Narsete, Virginia

Subject: RE: Blade story on Clyde cancer suit

Maryann/All,

Thanks again.

I found benzaldehyde listed on an EPA Region 3 web page with Regional Screening Levels for various contaminants: http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/risk/human/rb-concentration_table/Generic_Tables/pdf/master_sl_table_run_NOV2012.pdf

This might be what the lawyers are referring to, but it seems to be taken out of context. On that list of Regional Screening Levels, benzaldehyde does not seem to be listed as a contaminant that causes cancer.

Attached is a pdf file of the results when you look up benzaldehyde on EPA's Regional Screening Level calculator using this web page: http://epa-prgs.ornl.gov/cgi-bin/chemicals/csl_search. Some of that web page is cut off in the pdf file, but I did not see any cancer risk mentioned. The RSLs for tap water seem to state no cancer risk. Please take all of this with the obvious caveat that I am not a technical expert.

Non-Responsive

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Toledo Blade reporter did seem to follow up with health agencies for info on benzaldehyde.

Thanks again.

Josh Singer

U.S. EPA, Region 5

phone: 312-353-5069

singer.joshua@epa.gov

From: Suero, Mary Ann

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 8:19 AM

To: Singer, Joshua; Speizman, Elissa; Rowan, Anne

Cc: Wolfe, Stephen; Durno, Mark; Klevs, Mardi; Master, Edward; Harris, Michael

Subject: RE: Blade story on Clyde cancer suit

Here's the article in the Toldedo Blade by Vanessa McCray

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2013/05/15/27-plaintiffs-sue-Whirlpool-over-Clyde-cancer-cluster.html>

Excerpt:

"Families involved in the suit hired a consultant who this spring collected dust samples that their attorney Alan Mortensen said tested for levels of benzaldehyde far above U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. The Salt Lake City attorney said benzaldehyde is a "known hazardous substance" and "a suspected carcinogen" used by Whirlpool in the manufacturing process. He called the discovery a "commonality" found in the homes tested, including residences of cancer victims."

I'm not sure what EPA standards they're referring to...

maryann

From: Singer, Joshua

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 4:41 PM

To: Speizman, Elissa; Rowan, Anne

Cc: Suero, Mary Ann; Wolfe, Stephen; Durno, Mark

Subject: FW: Blade story on Clyde cancer suit

FYI. The Toledo Blade reporter's questions in her own words.

Steve, Mark or Maryann:

Do you have any good links for benzaldehyde?

I have found these, but they have no info about benzaldehyde as a carcinogen:

<http://www.epa.gov/iris/subst/0332.htm>

<http://apps.who.int/ipsc/database/evaluations/chemical.aspx?chemID=4726>

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/pha/pha.asp?docid=1222&pg=1>

Benzaldehyde is found in dyes, drugs, perfumes and flavoring agents. It is found in the oil of bitter almond and therefore, has a bitter almond odor [3]. It is present in hickory smoke and gasoline exhaust. It occurs naturally as a volatile plant product, like cranberry aroma. It is a byproduct of toluene degradation in the atmosphere [2]. It degrades in the atmosphere with an estimated half-life of 29.8 hours [2]. It can be a skin irritant if applied directly to the skin in concentrated doses. Benzaldehyde vapors can cause eye irritation [2].

Here is a link to purchase EPA's reporter on benzaldehyde:

<http://www.ntis.gov/search/product.aspx?ABBR=PB88174537&starDB=GRAHIST>

Thanks.

From: Vanessa McCray [<mailto:vmccray@theblade.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 4:32 PM

To: Singer, Joshua

Subject: Blade story on Clyde cancer suit

Joshua,

I left a voicemail this afternoon seeking comment on a suit filed today in federal court against Whirlpool by families involved in the Clyde cancer cluster. I thought I'd try to reach you by email as well to make sure someone at EPA had a chance to respond.

The plaintiffs site a study a private consultant did of Clyde homes that found benzaldehyde, which they believe is a cause of the cancer. Their attorney said he provided a report to the U.S. EPA and has not received a "meaningful" response from the agency. I wanted to give someone a chance to respond to that as well as have you point me to any resources that describe that compound and it as a possible carcinogen.

Vanessa

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Vanessa McCray

Staff writer

The Blade

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